

CALIFORNIA · SCHOOLS ·



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COVER

The study of art and safety are combined in the work of the student shown in the picture on the cover. She is a student of the Willowbrook Junior High School, one of the five four-year junior high schools of the Compton Union Secondary System, Compton, Los Angeles County.

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Radio and Parent Education

GERTRUDE LAWS, *Chief, Bureau of Parent Education*

The father of a high school boy was discussing an unsatisfactory report card. He said, "Boy, I should think you would be ashamed to have your cousin, a mere girl, outstrip you at school." "But, Father," Bob replied, "girls are not so mere as they once were."

With reference to the whole process of education in children's lives, parents are not so mere as they once were. It is more and more apparent, as research throws light upon the learning process, that the way parents feel and think and act, is enormously important to human life. From the standpoint of happiness the most important education anyone ever gets is the outcome of experience in family life. Most parents really love their children enough to make the education in family life advantageous to them. But in spite of their love parents have made serious mistakes in dealing with their children which might have been avoided.

The skeptic is always ready to say that parents of the past have done no organized study of their educational responsibilities, and that they have done well. It is true that many of them have done well. It is also true that conditions for human life are growing more complex every day. At the same time research workers are providing more reliable knowledge every day. It has been said that a normal high school boy or girl today has more reliable knowledge than the best educated man or woman had a century ago. Professional men and women find it difficult to keep abreast with new material even in one field of activity.

Parents in the past had a simpler task of living themselves and the problem of education at home was simpler. There was little help available to them outside of their homes and the schools. For these reasons their patterns of conduct are not effective for parents at present.

Thousands of parents in California are ready to study; they really want to do their part of the total process of education better. They want to know what is available to them that will help them. The problem of leadership is a difficult one in all phases of social life. The public school system and the conditions of life in the United States have provided so nearly the same opportunities for everyone

that few individuals stand out conspicuously as leaders. Political parties, religious and civic organizations, and other groups, have difficulty in finding individuals sufficiently developed to make them acceptable as leaders.

The State Department of Education, the California Congress of Parents and Teachers, and the Mutual Broadcasting Company propose to undertake an experiment to discover whether or not the need for leadership can be met by the radio.

It may be that the habits and attitudes of adults in relation to radio are inimical to learning and to organized effort in relation to it. The Bureau of Parent Education of the State Department of Education and the California Congress of Parents and Teachers have cooperated closely since the Bureau was established in 1926. It is possible that a foundation for continued work has been laid which will make the proposed experiment a useful one, in spite of the obstacles familiar to workers in the field. If the experiment succeeds it may be possible to help other states in the development of ways of using the radio for educational purposes, as well as gaining the possible benefits of such a program for California. The following proposals are outlined as the basis of the radio experiment.

1. Groups of parents ranging in number from five to thirty will register for an hour or more of study. They may have a leader who holds a special secondary certificate and is employed as a member of the local staff for adult education in their community. Or they may elect one of their own number to act as chairman of discussion. Each group will supply its own reference books and magazines, and will set up its own plans for observation of children.

2. The chief of the Bureau of Parent Education of the California State Department of Education will broadcast subject matter and questions for discussion for fifteen minutes. The radio announcer at the station in which the broadcast originates will be present and will ask questions and make comments from time to time which he believes the typical parent would do.

3. The listening groups will continue their discussion for an hour or more following the broadcast and send the questions which they would like to have discussed on subsequent broadcasts, and their suggestions for improvement of the service to the Chief of the Bureau of Parent Education, 515 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco.

4. Every effort will be made to handle all questions which seem to have wide enough significance to justify attention. From time to time special workers with particular phases of human growth and development and family relationships will be invited to deal with questions which they can best answer.

Individual parents may listen at home and send in questions and comments which will be most welcome. But the broadcast will be fully effective only if it serves as a basis for discussion, and as an indication of the direction for study.

The agencies in charge of developing the broadcast hope that it will not be dull, but they have made no particular effort to develop it as entertainment. They believe that intelligent parents are capable of vigorous thought as well as of enjoyment of entertainment, and that the radio can be an agent for helping thought processes. Constructive criticism of the program and suggestions for improvement will be given careful consideration. The whole plan has been made in a serious effort to meet the demand for leadership, and to find the best way to use the radio in parent education work in the state. Every individual who takes the time to write a question, or a criticism, or a suggestion will have a definite part in whatever service may be made available.

INTERPRETATIONS OF SCHOOL LAW

APPELLATE COURT DECISIONS

Assignment of Salary by Public School Teacher

A teacher employed in the public schools may, under section 955 of the Civil Code, assign salary to be earned in the future for the necessities of life, and such assignment can not be defeated by the subsequent filing by a judgment creditor of an authenticated abstract of judgment and affidavit of indebtedness under section 710 of the Code of Civil Procedure. (*Kimball et al. v. Ledford et al.*, 13 Cal. App. (2nd) 602, 57 Pac.(2nd) 163)

Dismissal of Probationary Teacher

Where after a probationary teacher, L. Monroe Sharpless, of the Oceanside-Carlsbad Union High School District had struck three pupils in their faces with clenched fists after being made the victim of "horse play" by the students of the school, the governing board of the district filed a complaint against the teacher in the superior court of the county having jurisdiction and the teacher resigned prior to the trial of the case, the teacher could not complain that the trial court thereafter committed prejudicial error in dismissing him from the service of the district for unfitness for service, since the teacher had already dismissed himself and there could be no prejudicial error under Section 4½ of Article VI of the Constitution of California.

There was sufficient evidence to justify the dismissal of the teacher, and the judgment was, therefore, conclusive on appeal. *Cattingham et al. v. Sharpless*, 95 C.A.D. 18, ---Pac.(2nd)---

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OPINIONS

Annexation of Elementary School District to Union Elementary School District

Since School Code sections 2.260 et seq. do not require that an elementary school district must be "contiguous," as that word is ordinarily understood, to a union elementary school district before it may be annexed thereto, then where by a change of boundaries of certain intervening elementary school districts, the elementary school district

can be made contiguous to the union elementary school district by a strip of land consisting of a county road, the distance between the two districts being not so great but that the interests of the areas may be better served, the annexation of the elementary school district to the union elementary school district under the circumstances stated is not legally objectionable. (A.G.O. NS1207, September 26, 1936)

Application of Workmen's Compensation Law to Vocational Education Employees

Persons paid from the State Vocational Education Fund are employees of the State and are entitled to the benefits of the Workman's Compensation Law (Labor Code sections 3201 *et seq.*), notwithstanding that their compensation comes from a state fund to which the Federal Government contributes; but neither the appropriation provided for by Item 186, Chapter 157, Statutes 1937 (Budget Act) or any other public fund is available to pay such benefits. If an award has been paid to a person from the State Vocational Education Fund, it can be paid only through the enactment of a claim bill. Such employees may, however, be insured through a policy of insurance procured under the provisions of section 11870 of the Insurance Code and the cost thereof would be a proper charge against the appropriation made to the State Department of Education. (A.G.O. NS1230, October 8, 1938)

Liability of Members of Board of Governors of California Nautical School

Inasmuch as the Board of Governors of the California Nautical School (Deering Act 5369) is exercising a governmental function in the management and control of the School, no personal liability would accrue to the members of the Board except as set forth in Deering Acts 5618 and 5150 and Vehicle Code section 400 (citing A.G.O. No. 7292). (A.G.O. NS1213, September 29, 1938)

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION GOOD CITIZENSHIP PILGRIMAGE

The State Department of Education is cooperating with the Daughters of the American Revolution, as in previous years, in the selection of a high school senior girl to represent California in the Good Citizenship Pilgrimage sponsored by the D. A. R.

Information concerning the Good Citizenship Pilgrimage and method of selecting the California representatives has been sent from the Division of Textbooks and Publications to the principal of each public senior high school and four-year high school in the state. Schools wishing to participate must submit the name of the school candidate to the Division not later than December 17, 1938.

DR. KIBBY TO DIRECT EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS AT EXPOSITION

The educational exhibits at the Golden Gate International Exposition have been placed under the direction of the California State Department of Education. At the request of the Executive Board of the State Committee on Educational Exhibits, Dr. Walter F. Dexter, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, has assumed the responsibility for the exhibits on behalf of the Department. He has named Dr. Ira W. Kibby, Chief of the Bureau of Business Education, to serve as the representative of the Department. Dr. Kibby will have the title of Director of Educational Exhibits. His assistant will be Mrs. Vesta Muehleisen.

EDUCATION TODAY BROADCAST OVER STATION KGO

The 1938 Education Today, a radio program sponsored by the California State Department of Education, will be broadcast over Station KGO at 3:30 to 3:45 on Saturday afternoon instead of over Station KPO as at present. The change of station for the program became effective October 8.

PUBLICATION OFFERS ABSTRACT SERVICE TO STUDENTS IN EDUCATION

Orders are now being taken for subscriptions to *Education Abstracts*, published five times a year by Phi Delta Kappa, men's professional education fraternity, for 1938-39.

The publication offers accurate, reliable abstracts of the best educational literature, both books and periodicals, published in America.

A uniform, world-wide rate of \$4.00 has been established as the subscription price except for members of Phi Delta Kappa whose dues for the current year are paid who are offered an annual rate of \$3.00. Subscriptions should be sent to the business office, *Education Abstracts*, 2034 Ridge Road, Homewood, Illinois.

MUSIC AND AMERICAN YOUTH BROADCASTS

The fourth annual season of Pacific Coast Music and American Youth Broadcasts demonstrating notable examples of the results of music teaching in the public schools and colleges of the West Coast, will commence with another Fall series of six programs, November 12 to December 17, Saturday evenings 6 to 6:30 o'clock. The programs are to be heard over the Pacific Coast Blue Network of the National Broadcasting Company and are being given under the auspices of the Northwest and California-Western Music Educators Conferences in cooperation with NBC.

Besides presenting the significant achievements accomplished by amateur a cappella choirs, glee clubs, bands, and orchestras, notable speakers will give their views on the avocational opportunities in music for students after graduation from school.

FEDERAL GRANTS-IN-AID IN RURAL LIBRARIES RECOMMENDED

Federal grants-in-aid to the several states for rural library service on the basis of rural population have been recommended by the Advisory Committee on Education. Two million dollars is the total sum recommended for the fiscal year of 1939-40, the amount increasing to six millions in 1941-42 and the three succeeding years. The grant contemplated for California under such a plan amounts to \$54,991 in 1939-40; \$109,982 in 1940-41; and \$164,973 in the two following years.

The recommendations for the grants to rural libraries came as the result of a study published under the title, *Library Service*, prepared for the Committee as Staff Study No. 11, by Carleton B. Joeckel, professor of Library Science at the University of Chicago. Dr. Joeckel found in his survey that three-quarters of the rural population of the United States are without library service.

CALIFORNIA'S CAPITAL

An illustrated booklet, *California's Capital*, has been prepared by the Sacramento Chamber of Commerce. Pictures and descriptive matter give information about the capital of the state.

Copies of the booklet are available for free distribution to public school teachers who may obtain them from the office of Arthur S. Dudley, Executive Manager, Sacramento.

AWARDS TO WOMEN FOR RESEARCH IN EDUCATION

Three awards of \$250 each will be granted to women for significant research studies in education by Pi Lambda Theta, National Association of Women in Education. The awards will be made from the Ella Victoria Dobbs Fellowship funds.

Any women of graduate standing or any member of Pi Lambda Theta whether or not engaged at present in educational work shall be eligible for the awards.

Candidates should submit an application to the chairman of the Fellowship Committee not later than November 15, 1938. Three copies of the final report of the completed research study shall be submitted to the Fellowship Committee by February 15, 1939. Awards will be announced on May 15, 1939.

All inquiries, applications, and reports should be addressed to Marion Anderson, Chairman of the Fellowship Committee, 15 Ashburton Place, Boston.

SCHOLASTIC ANNUAL AWARD CONTEST

Scholastic, a magazine for high school students, announces its annual competitions for students in the fields of art, crafts, newswriting, and musical composition in the October 1 and 8 issues.

The contest closes March 18, 1939, except for contributions in the field of newswriting for which the deadline is March 25, 1939.

Ten of the winners will be awarded trips to New York City and the opportunity to be heard over a coast-to-coast program of the National Broadcasting Company. There will be other awards in addition to the ten first prizes. In all, \$10,000 will be distributed in prizes and trips.

Any undergraduate student in the eighth, ninth, tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grades in any public, private, or parochial school in the United States and its possessions, and the Dominion of Canada may compete in the competition. Information concerning the rules may be obtained from *Scholastic*, 250 E. Forty-Third Street, New York City.

OFFICE OF EDUCATION BULLETINS AVAILABLE

Eight bulletins for use in adult education classes and two bulletins made up of teaching materials on the subject "Let Freedom Ring" may be had at a small cost from the United States Office of Education, Washington, D. C.

Bulletin 1937, No. 32 contains the thirteen radio scripts broadcast under the title, "Let Freedom Ring", together with lesson aids for teaching the material. The price is 60 cents.

Bulletin 1937, No. 33 applies the material of the scripts to appropriate situations in schools and communities. The price is 20 cents.

The public affairs and civic education pamphlets for adult education classes may be had for 10 cents each with the exception of *Choosing Our Way*, priced at 35 cents; *Forums for Young People*, priced at 15 cents; *Printed Page and the Public Platform*, priced at 20 cents; and *Safeguarding Democracy through Adult Civic Education*, priced at 5 cents.

Information regarding these bulletins may be obtained from the United States Office of Education, Washington.

GREAT PLAY RADIO SERIES

The current radio series of Great Plays is broadcast weekly on Sunday morning from 10 to 11 a.m. PST, over the NBC Station KGO. The program is a presentation of the National Broadcasting Company over a coast-to-coast network.

HEALTH FILM AVAILABLE

The life of Edward Jenner and the story of his contribution to medicine—vaccination against smallpox—are the subject of a silent film prepared in the interest of health education for use in junior and senior high schools, particularly in social science and general science classes.

Information concerning the film and the conditions under which it may be obtained may be had from Dr. W. P. Shepard, assistant secretary to the Pacific Coast Welfare Director of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, 600 Stockton Street, San Francisco.

PROFESSIONAL LITERATURE

Science in General Education. Report of the Committee on the Function of Science in General Education, Commission on Secondary School Curriculum, Progressive Education Association. New York: D. Appleton-Century Company, 1938. Pp. xiv + 592.

The increasing effect of the application of science and of the spirit of scientific inquiry upon modern life is obvious. Recognition of the importance of science in education is found in the prominent place occupied by science in the secondary school curriculum over a period of many years. Nevertheless, much of science instruction has been so highly specialized and has stressed scientific abstractions and highly organized bodies of technical information rather than practical application to such an extent that much of its potential value for the average pupil as an aid to understanding modern life has been lost. A reorganization of science instruction to contribute more effectively to youth's understanding of its environment is one of the most important secondary school curriculum problems. The proper role of science instruction, as conceived by the Committee which prepared this report, lies within the process of general education for all youth rather than as specialized science education for the few.

Part I of the volume presents a discussion of education in democracy as a basis for defining the function of science teaching in a program of general education. The following four aspects of living are selected as convenient categories, although not mutually exclusive, for identifying the interests and needs of youth and for organizing appropriate learning experiences in science which will contribute effectively to human living: (1) personal living; (2) immediate personal-social relationships; (3) social-civic relationships; and (4) economic relationships.

Part II devotes separate chapters to an analytical discussion of how science teaching can provide experiences in each of these phases of living. In connection with personal living, the chief emphasis is placed on the contribution of science to physical and mental health and to an adequate understanding and evaluation of self. The contributions of science-teaching to the second phase of living, immediate personal-social relationships, are particularly related to the problems of the adolescent in achieving maturity. The sections on social adjustment between young people of opposite sexes and sex education are excellent. The tremendous effects of science on the development of modern social institutions is the theme of the chapter dealing with the third aspect of living, social civic relationships. As social change constantly tends to remove the adolescent from the immediate production of goods and services, the contribution of science to the fourth phase of living, economic relationships, assumes greater significance, not only for vocational training, but in connection with training in meeting the individual's needs as a consumer to purchase wisely and economically. In addition to the chapter on selecting and organizing science experiences to contribute to each of the four phases of living, another chapter is included in Part II dealing with "Teaching Science in Ways to Encourage Reflective Thinking," one of the foremost objectives of all science teaching.

Part III consists of two chapters. The first, on "Understanding the Student" presents conclusions from psychology and social psychology essential as a basis for establishing sound learning procedures. The second, on evaluating student achievement, emphasizes the inadequacy of the ordinary written examination and shows the possibilities of such methods as anecdotal records, interviews, study of students' creative products, observation of students' other activities, and case studies. The need for evaluating application of scientific information and use of scientific method in thinking, as well as knowledge itself, is clearly shown. Just as inadequate methods of evaluating tend to retard progress in instruction, so may more adequate methods of measuring achievement promote more effective instruction.

Part IV is a brief set of suggestions to facilitate the use of the report by teachers.

Examples of how science instruction in actual practice has been organized to incorporate the principles embodied in this report are presented in four Appendixes: I, A course in functional chemistry; II, A fused physical-science course; III, Unit on Public Health; IV, Source unit in genetics.

IVAN R. WATERMAN

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- STUERM, FRANCIS H. *Training in Democracy.* The New Schools of Czechoslovakia. New York: Inor Publishing Company, 1938.
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